



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Contact: Jennifer L. Mieth
(978) 567-3381

**44 Administrative and Executive Fire Officers Graduate
from Management Training Program**

On Thursday, December 13, 2007, 44 fire service personnel from 41 communities graduated from the 17th offering of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program at the University of Massachusetts' Donahue Institute in Shrewsbury, MA. The thirteen-week program was developed in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Standards for chief fire officers, and is delivered jointly by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute for Governmental Services and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. It is a comprehensive course providing training in the non-fire suppression aspects of managing fire department organizations.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "The fire service faces many new challenges in the post 9/11 world and our leaders need to continually develop their arsenal of skills to be ready."

New Hampshire State Training Director Richard Mason was the keynote speaker. He applauded the graduates saying "Completing this course, you lead by example, demonstrating that firefighters, regardless of rank, must continually expand and hone their skills."

Fire officers from the following fire departments graduated in this afternoon's ceremony: Avon, Ayer, Barnstable, Bellingham, Belmont, Bourne, Bridgewater, Burlington, Cambridge, Carver, Charlton, Danvers, Dartmouth District #1, Devens, Duxbury, Easthampton, Framingham, Franklin, Granby, Lakeville, Littleton, Lynn, MassPort, Methuen, Milton, Needham, New Bedford, Northampton, Norton, Oxford, Palmer, Pittsfield, Revere, Shrewsbury, Stoughton, Tisbury, Topsfield, Ware, West Newbury, West Springfield, and Yarmouth.

Administrative Services • Hazardous Materials Response
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The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective public sector management. It includes human resource management, group dynamics, leadership and legal issues, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, legal aspects, budgets and public finance, community awareness and public relations, and labor relations.

The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program expects to help fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage personnel and the department, to provide skills to understand employee's needs and problems, to promote personal productivity, to increase the capacity to manage both human and technical resources, and to increase inter-agency cooperation. Participants must complete a project whose program content can be implemented at the completion of the course.

This program prepares students to take the certification exams for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. Coan said, "Certification to this level is a prestigious milestone and can assist the chief fire officer in securing a national designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence."

Some of the instructors in the course have included: Superintendent Denis Onieal of the National Fire Academy, Chief Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Ed Kirtley, Curriculum Development Director of IFSTA, the fire service publications division of Oklahoma State University, Chief Mike Chiaramonte, Director of IAFC, and Chief Kenneth R. Willette, President of the FCAM. These people have presented on the topics of Emergency Services Delivery, Health & Safety Programs, Fire & Life Safety Programs, Effective Communications, and Local Budgeting. These presenters have complemented the group of instructors from the Donahue Institute.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.